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BOROUGH OF LUDLOW.



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for  
1937.

# Ludlow Borough Council.

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MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	966
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid 1937	...	...	...	...	5,729
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	1,537
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£30,850
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£119/0/5

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.** The Industries are those of a market town serving an extensive Agricultural area, and its prosperity and the conditions of employment chiefly depend on the state of Agriculture. It is, in addition, a residential place and much frequented by visitors on account of its historical interest and the beauty of its surroundings.

## Vital Statistics

Live Births—

	Total	M.	F.	<b>Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated population</b>		
Legitimate	73	41	32			
Illegitimate	2	1	1			
	—	—	—			
	75	42	33			
	—	—	—			

Still Births 3.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	38
Deaths 84.	Crude death-rate per 1000 of the population	14·66
	Comparable death-rate	...
Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—		
All Infants per 1000 live births	...	53
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	54
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	0

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at the middle of the year was 77 less than last year.

THE BIRTH-RATE (13·09) shows a decline from last year when it was 15·8. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 14·9. Only two births were illegitimate, equal to 2·6 per cent. of the total.

THE DEATH-RATE (14·66). When the factor 0·77 supplied by the Registrar-General is used, the corrected death-rate is 11·2 compared with 12·4 for England and Wales for the year.

The causes of death were: Influenza 5, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 4, other Tuberculosis 2, Cancer 12, Diabetes 3, Cerebral Hæmorrhage 11, Heart Disease 10, Bronchitis 6, Pneumonia 3, Appendicitis 1, Digestive Diseases 2, Nephritis 3, Congenital Debility and Premature Birth 3, Senility 2, Suicide 2, other defined diseases 15.

The death-rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the year was 0·69 per thousand of the population and for Cancer 2·09. The former is satisfactory and the latter somewhat high when compared with the Shropshire rates for last year. Influenza was prevalent in the schools and was responsible for five deaths.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (53). It was based on four deaths, three of which were due to Congenital Debility and Premature Birth and one to Pneumonia. It is very similar to last year for the Borough. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 58.

LUDLOW BOROUGH.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate
Average of 5 years 1920-24	22·4	15·9	62
Average of 5 years 1925-29	16·5	14·0	63
Average of 5 years 1930-34	15·3	13·8	36
Ludlow Borough 1935	14·6	13·7 (10·5)	25
Ludlow Borough 1936	15·8	12·9 (9·9)	54
Ludlow Borough 1937	13·09	14·66 (11·28)	53
England & Wales 1937	14·9	12·4	58



## **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

1. The only whole time Public Health Officer of the Authority is Mr. W. G. Lane, who has held the offices of Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector since 1913. A contribution is made to his salary and that of the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The arrangement made by the County Council for the examination of Pathological specimens by the University of Birmingham still continues, and is taken full advantage of by Medical Practitioners in the area.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. For Infectious cases the Monkmoor Hospital send their Ambulance for the collecting of cases. The Borough Council disposed of their Ambulance last year and the district is now dependent on the Red Cross Ambulance for accidents and sickness.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. There are a number of Nurses engaged in this work provided by the local Nursing Association, and from personal observations I know the work is efficiently carried out.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS. There is a Treatment Centre every morning for School Children for minor ailments and a Child Welfare Centre once a week which is very well attended and is staffed by the County Council in buildings provided by the County and run by a local Committee.

(e) HOSPITALS. The Infectious Disease Hospital was closed throughout the year; cases necessitating removal on account of absence of proper isolation at home were sent to Monkmoor. The Cottage Hospital is the only voluntary hospital and is of great assistance to the town. There is a good Hospital at the Workhouse which is generally full up.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

1. WATER. A constant and satisfactory service was maintained throughout the year by drawing on the Birmingham main and mixing it with Burway supply. Regular samples were sent to the County Analyst and the results were very satisfactory.

Six additional houses were connected to the existing mains and a short length of main laid for the purpose.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. New drains were laid at six premises and six new houses connected to existing sewers. The Sewerage Works have been carefully supervised and the final

effluent, which is run into the Teme, has been uniformly clear. I understand that the tanks are filled by six hours' flow of the sewage and from this it is obvious that they should be considerably enlarged on the ground which is available for this purpose, adjacent to the existing ones.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.** The collection of house and trade refuse is promptly and efficiently carried out and deposited on a tip on the outskirts of the town and carefully covered up to prevent any nuisance. The fouling of footpaths by dogs has recently been receiving consideration and the question of bye-laws to relieve the trouble has been explored. There is little doubt that the increasing motor traffic on the roads is largely the cause of the nuisance.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Appended to the Report is an account furnished by the Surveyor of the Sanitary work completed during the year. One hundred and forty-two houses were visited and inspected and two legal and sixty-four informal notices served on owners, and forty-nine of these were complied with, and a considerable amount of valuable sanitary improvements completed.

**SHOPS.** No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of Shops and to sanitary conveniences.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.** No complaints were received in respect of nuisance from smoke in the area.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.** There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the area. There is a Swimming Pool on the river, but the Council take no responsibility for the condition of the water beyond seeing that there is no pollution of the river in the Borough. A Swimming Bath in which school children could be taught to swim, and where the water is purified by filtration, is, I consider, urgently required in the area. It has been under consideration by the Council for some months and a site is being secured.

**ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.** No action was called for for this purpose either in Council or other houses during the year.

4. **SCHOOLS.** The sanitary condition and water supply of the Elementary Schools in the area are very satisfactory. Certain improvements were carried out by the Education Authority at Old Street School during the year.

## Housing

### 1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1). (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... ..	97
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	126
(2). (a) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	63
(b) Number of Inspections for the purpose ...	72
(3). Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	49
(4). Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	14

### 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	21
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### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	6
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) by Owners ... ..	6
(b) by Local Authority ... ..	0

#### B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	8
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	8
(b) by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of Houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made ... 36

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 Nil

#### 4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part. IV., OVERCROWDING—

A. (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 15

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 15

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 128

B. Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

C. (1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year ... 5

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 34

D. Particulars of any cases in which the Dwelling House has again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement ... Nil

Plans were passed during the year for the erection of seven houses by private enterprise and six were completed. The Council have secured the land necessary for the houses required to abate the overcrowding and have accepted a tender for their erection. When these are completed it will enable a number of owners to make improvements to their houses to conform to the recently adopted Housing Bye-laws. It is proposed to deal with Rock Lane as an Improvement Area; the houses are so badly arranged and a number of them incurably damp.

#### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are eight Cowsheds, five Dairies and two Milkshops in the Borough, but so far as I can learn no Pasteurised Milk on sale. The bulk of the milk sold in the town is produced in the Rural District. Milk production in the Borough is generally a side line to some other business.

Fifty-eight inspections were made and seven notices were issued for structural improvements and want of cleanliness, and all complied with. At the elementary schools milk is provided for the children throughout the year.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Frequent inspections have been made of the Meat killed in the area or exposed for sale, and it is stated to be uniformly good in quality. Several of the Slaughter Houses are in congested areas, and a Public Abattoir on the outskirts of the district would be convenient and more sanitary.

**Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

Fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified throughout the year. The first case was infected whilst on holidays and was, for a few days, back at school before it was discovered. Three cases were sent to Monkmoor Hospital because they were either overcrowded or on business premises. No cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year although numerous swabs were taken and sent to Birmingham University for examination.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1937.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	15	3	0
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0
Erysipelas ..	7	1	0
Pneumonia ...	13	0	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0	0
	36	4	3

**Tuberculosis.**

No action was called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.



NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5				2				1
15	1			1				1
25					1			
35					3			
45								
55								
65+								
	1	0	0	3	4	0	0	2

There were on the Tuberculosis Register at the close of the year 56 Pulmonary cases (male 35, female 21), and 23 Non-Pulmonary (14 male and 9 female).

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**ALFRED E. WHITE.**

*June 25th, 1938.*

**THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT FURNISHED BY THE  
SANITARY INSPECTOR, OF SANITARY WORK FOR  
THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937, IN THE  
BOROUGH OF LUDLOW SANITARY DISTRICT:—**

(a) Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey ... 142

Number of legal notices sent ... 2

Number of informal notices sent ... 64

Number of such notices complied with ... 49

Number of letters written ... 121

**Particulars of Sanitary matters referred to in  
the above Notices :—**

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease 27

(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply ... 3

(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended ... 6

(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction ... 4

(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition ... 12

(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds ... 6

(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance ... 1

(h) Houses overcrowded ... Nil

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis) ... 23

Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis ... 4

Plans for new houses passed ... 7

Certificates issued for water supply to new houses ... 6

Houses connected to public water supply ... 6

Houses connected to public sewerage ... 6

*(Signed)*

**WM. GEO. LANE,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*

**INSPECTION OF DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1937, IN  
THE LUDLOW BOROUGH SANITARY DISTRICT.**

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register	...	...	13
Number of premises—Cowsheds	...	...	8
Dairies	...	...	5
Milkshops	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	58
Defects found (1) in Cowsheds—			
(a) floor or cubic space	...	...	1
(b) ventilation	...	...	Nil
(c) lighting	...	...	Nil
(d) structure of floor	...	...	1
(e) drainage	...	...	Nil
(f) cleanliness	...	...	3
(2) in surroundings of Cowsheds	...	...	3
(3) in sanitary condition of Drains	...	...	Nil
(4) in sanitary condition of Milkshops	...	...	Nil
(5) in water supply	...	...	Nil
Number of notices—verbal and written	...	...	7
Number of these notices complied with	...	...	7
Number of defects found and not yet remedied	...	...	Nil

*(Signed)*

**WM. GEO. LANE,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937, FOR THE BOROUGH  
OF LUDLOW, in the County of Shropshire, on the administra-  
tion of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with  
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces,  
including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors  
of Nuisances :—

	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	16	2
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	68	8
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	10	2
	—	—
	94	12
	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces :

	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness ...	9	9
Other nuisances ...	3	2
	—	—
	12	11
	—	—

*(Signed)*

**ALFRED E. WHITE,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*June 25th, 1938.*